

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11606 161601Z

43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 AID-05 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 EB-07 COME-00 FEAE-00 TRSE-00 /095 W

----- 121555

O P 161451Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6240

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSQH STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NY 2948

USCINCEUR

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11606

GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT TRYING ITS UTMOST BUT SECURITY STILL OUT
OF REACH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 11606 161601Z

REF: BEIRUT 11557

SUMMARY. SECTIONS OF BEIRUT WERE UNSAFE SEPT 15 AND UP TO MID-DAY SEPT 16 IN A FLUTUATING STATE OF SECURITY. TRIPOLI HAS ERUPTED AGAIN AS LEFTIST REACT TO THE SEPT 15 INCIDENT AT CHEKKA (REFTEL) BY ATTACKING GENARMERIE POST. THE GAS SHORTAGE SEEMS TO BE EASING, BUT SLOWLY. GOL IS TRYING, OR CONSIDERING, SEVERAL NEW MOVES IN ITS UNENDING EFFORT TO PIN DOWN ELUSIVE NATIONWIDE SECURITY. 'ARAFAT IS EMERGING AS AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT

FIGURE IN THIS EFFORT, WHILE PRES FRANGIE IS TOTALLY ELIPSED.
END SUMMARY.

1. PARTS OF BEIRUT WERE INSECURE THROUGHOUT SEPT 15 AND THE NIGHT OF SEPT 15-16, AS THE INCIDENTS MENTIONED REFTEL CONTINUED. THE QUARTERS OF SIN AL FIL AND NABA REMAINED ACTIVE, BUT DURING NIGHT MAIN FIGHTING SHIFTED TO CHIYAH (SHIITE MOSLEM) AND AIN RUMANEH (CHRISTIAN) WHICH DUELED EACH OTHER WITH INDISCRIMINATE SHELLING. SHOOTING IN ALL QUARTERS SUBSIDED SOMEWHAT A.M. SEPT 16. BUT FIRING WAS STILL HEARD. SOME SECTIONS REMAIN UNSAFE RUMORS ABOUND AND THE CITY'S POPULANCE IS NOTICEABLY ON EDGE.

2. TRIPOLI AGAIN CAPTURED MAJOR ATTENTION SEPT 15 AS THE FORCES OF LEFTIST FIREBRAND FARUQ AL-MUQADAM, REACTING TO NEWS (REFTEL) OF THE KILLING OF THEIR OWN MEN BY THE ARMY NEAR CHEKKA, ATTACKED AND OCCUPIED SEVERAL GENARMERIE POSTS IN THE CITY AND ELSE WHERE IN THE NORTH. OTHER TRIPOLI LEFTISTS JOINED THESE ATTACKS. AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF GEDARME PERSONNEL ARE BEING HELD HOSTAGE. LATE REPORTS AS YET UNCONFIRMED, INICATE THAT TRIPOLI IS IN A CHAOTIC STATE AS OF MID DAY SEPT 16.

3. SCATTERED INCIDENTS ALSO OCCURED IN THE BEKAA VALLEY SEPT 15, BUT THESE HAVE NOT YET ERUPTED INTO ANYTHING MAJOR. ZAHLE IS QUIET.

4. THE GAS SHORATAGE APPEARS TO BE EASING, ALTHOUGH LONG LINES AT GAS STATIONS CONTINUE BECAUSE OF HOARDING. NEARLY DOUBLE THE AVERAGE DAILY CONSUMPTION WAS SUPPLIED TO MARKET YESTERDAY NONETHELESS, LEBANESE GASOLINE SUPPLY REMAINS DEPENDEFT ON TIMELY ARRIVAL OF TANKER SHIPS UNTIL ROAD TO IPC REFINERY AT TRIPOLI REOPENS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 11606 161601Z

5. THE GOVT IS STILL PUTTING ITS SHOULDER TO THE SISYPHEAN TASK OF RESTORING SECURITY COUNTRY WIDE. THE CABINET MET SEPT 15 AFTER WHICH INTMIN CHAMOUN WARNED THAT STIFF MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN IF THE CHIYAH AND AIN EL RUMANEH SHOOTING DID NOT END SOON. A REPORTER ASKED HIM IF THIS MEANT CALLING UPON THE URMY, AND HE REPLIEDC "IF WE HAVE TO" PRIMIN KARAME, TRPORTEDLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF BEIRUT LEFTISTS INCLUDING JUMBLATT, SENT

NASSERITE IBRAHIM QALAYLAT AND A FATAH RE TO TRIPOLI BY
HELICOPTER LATE SEPT 15 IN AN EFFORT TO MEDIATE THE SITUATION.
THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THEY WERE IN ANY WAY SUCCEEDFUL.

6. ARAFAT HELD A MEETING SEPT 15 WITH JUMBALTT'S LEFTIST AND
ANOTHER WITH CHAMOUN THE SAME DAY. BOTH MEETINGS RESULTED IN
DECLARATIONS DEPLORING THE DTRIFE IN TRIPOLI AND BEIRUT THE
PLO WILL REPORTINGLY ASSIST THE GOVT TO RESTORE ORDER IN
BOTH CITIES. THE ARAFAT CHAMOUN MEETING ALSO HEIGHTENED SPECULATION
ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF "NATIONAL RECONCILIATION", A SEEMINGLY
UNLIKELY TOPIC IN CURRENT STMOsphere BUT NEVER COMPLETELY FOR
GOOTTEN THE TWO MEN APPARENTLY DICUSSED IT AY SOME LENGHT
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE KARAME JUMBLATT TALKS OF THE DAY BEFORE
IN WHICH THE SUBJECT HAD COME UP. NATIONAL BLOC LEADER RAYMOND
EDDE, HOWEVER, HAS CALLED TALK OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WHILE
KILLINGS ESCALATE LIKE ASPIRIN TO A WOUNDED MAN, AND HE URGES
STRONGER GOVT ACTION. MEANWHILE, JUMBLATT SAYS THAT THE GOVT
AND MOSLEM REGILIOUS LEADERS MUST HENCEFORTH CONSULT WITH
THE LEFT ON ALL MOVES.

7. IN RELATED ACTION, FORMER PRIMIN SAEB SALAAM GOES TO DAMASUCS
TTODAY TO CONSULT WITH SYRIAN FORMINKHADDAM ON LEBANON'S CURRENT
CRISIS. SALAAM IS A POLITICAL ALLY OF KARAME. OBSERVERS RECALL
THAT KHADDAM WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ENDING ROUND 3, AND SYRIA HAS
HINTED AT ITS CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO BE HELFUL.

8. COMMENT: EMERGENCE OF 'ARAFAT AS AN ACKNOWLEDGED POWER
IN POLITICAL DOMESTIC POLITICS IS THE MOST
SIGNIFICANT DEVELOMENTTS OF PAST FEW DAYS. ALREADY VIRTUALLY
SOVEREIGN IN PARTS OF SOUTHERN LEBANON, THE FEDAYEEN MAINSTREAM
LED BY THE PLO IS BECOME INDESPENSIBLE TO TRANQUILITY IN OTHER
REGIONS AS WELL. KARAME AS GOL HEAD REMAINS THE CENTRAL FIGURE
BUT HE MUST ACT LIKE A FEUDAL KING CONSULTING THE CRANKY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 11606 161601Z

BARONS JUMBLATT, ARAFAT ETC, CHAMOUN IS KARAME'S COLLABORATOR
AND SPEAKS FOR THE CHRISTIANS, GEMAYEL, THOUGH STILL IMPORTANT
LETS CHAMOUN PLAY THIS ROLE, APPARETNLY CONTENT TO REST ON THE
PHALANGE'S REPUTATION AS DEFENDER OF THE CHRISTIANS IN ROUNDS
1,2, AND 3 MEANWHILE THE MAN WHO WOULD NORMALLY BE "KING"
PRES FRANGIE, IS OUT OF THE PICTURE WITH HIS HOTHEADED ZGHORTA
CONSTITUENCY DISCREDITED.
LAMBRAKIS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, GASOLINE, CIVIL DISORDERS, ENERGY CRISIS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT11606
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750320-0884
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750946/aaaaboet.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 11557
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT TRYING ITS UTMOST BUT SECURITY STILL OUT OF REACH
TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006